

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly Newscast

### March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Lessons prepared by Barbara Edmondson, Kim Chaba-Armstrong & Justine Light

#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

shake up (to change things)  
struggling (having a difficult time)  
infighting (fighting within a group)

recent (close to now)  
junior (beginner)  
shocking (surprising)

unrest (problems)  
resigned (quit)  
interim (temporary)

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**step down** – to quit a position of power

**backbench member** – a politician who does not have a government office

**cabinet minister** – a politician who has a government office i.e. responsible for education or health

1. My friend has been \_\_\_\_\_ to learn English, so I suggested he use CBC Learning English.
2. When my ESL teacher wants to \_\_\_\_\_ her diet (eating habits), she asks her foreign students for their favorite recipes.
3. There has been a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Ukraine. The most \_\_\_\_\_ event was that Russia took over Crimea.
4. After the president \_\_\_\_\_, the vice president became the \_\_\_\_\_ leader, until an election was held.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ within a political party decreases that party's popularity.
6. When I first started my job, I was called a \_\_\_\_\_ associate.
7. It is \_\_\_\_\_ how many people do not recycle cans, plastic and other things.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Alison Redford recently stepped up as Alberta's premier.
2. \_\_\_\_ Redford had been having a difficult time dealing with problems in her party.
3. \_\_\_\_ The Progressive Conservative party had problems because of Redford's leadership style and travel expenses.
4. \_\_\_\_ Two government members recently quit.
5. \_\_\_\_ A junior cabinet minister called Redford a bully.
6. \_\_\_\_ Redford shocked people when she said she would allow party infighting.
7. \_\_\_\_ Dave Hancock is the temporary premier.

### Discussion Questions

Do you think Alison Redford made the right decision to resign? Why or why not?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) mystery	a) defeat annoyance
	2) prove	b) quickly surprising
	3) confusion	c) problem question
	4) frustration	d) show evidence end up
	5) aviation	e) stolen seized
	6) hijacked	f) disorder chaos
	7) sudden	g) airplane industry flying machines

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Solving the mystery of the missing Malaysian plane is _____.	a) difficult without proof. b) proving to be very difficult.
2. On March 8 <sup>th</sup> , Flight 370 took a _____ turn over waters between Malaysia and Vietnam.	a) sharp and confusing b) sudden and unexplained
3. Family members of the passengers and crew have felt _____ since March 8 <sup>th</sup> .	a) frustration and confusion b) senseless
4. _____ community also feels frustration and confusion.	a) The world Malaysian b) The worldwide aviation
5. There are many questions _____.	a) that are still unanswered. b) that are still basic.

### Discussion Questions

What do you think happened to Flight 370? Which countries or companies do you think should be responsible for searching for the missing plane?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. Alumni	a) A person who has successfully completed a program of study at a school, college or university
	2. logo	b) likely to cause public disagreement
	3. graduate	c) a graduate or former student of a school, college or university
	4. controversial	d) spiritual leaders of aboriginal communities
	5. elders	e) a symbol or design used by an organization like a school or business
	6. offensive	f) people who lived in Canada before European settlers
	7. aboriginal	g) causing someone to feel upset or hurt

**Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:**

**Treaty Seven – A group of aboriginal people living in Southern Alberta**

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Which high school is named in this story?
2. What is the current name of the sports team?
3. Which group of people is offended by the name?
4. Who has decided that the name must be changed?
5. What will the new name for the sports teams be?

### Discussion Questions

Do you think names that are offensive to some people should have to change? What is more important, traditions or being sensitive to others?

## Language Focus

### Speaking skills: Intonation of questions

Intonation is **how** we say words and phrases. Intonation includes the rising or falling sound that people make when they speak. Language often sounds like a melody because we use intonation. It is important to learn intonation when learning a language, because using the correct intonation helps your listener to understand you.

When asking a question in English, there are different intonations we can use, depending on what type of question we are asking.

- Yes/No questions end in a **rising intonation**
- Information questions that begin with a Wh-word end in a **falling intonation**

In story number 2 this week, we hear three questions being asked with clear examples of rising and falling intonation.

Was the plane hijacked?



What happened to the passengers?



Where is the plane?



Listen to the questions at the end of story 2 and notice how the arrows try to show the intonation Carla Beynon uses when asking the questions.

Try to practice asking the questions using the same intonation as Carla Beynon.

Make up some of your own yes-no questions and Wh – questions and practice asking them using the correct intonation. It helps to exaggerate the pronunciation when you practice.

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	MARCH 21 <sup>ST</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Carla Beynon and this is Learning English with CBC for March 21 <sup>st</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	In a huge political shakeup, Alison Redford has stepped down as Alberta's premier. In recent weeks, Redford had been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative party because of her leadership style and travel expenses. A backbench member had quit, calling Redford a bully, and a junior cabinet minister resigned. In her shocking announcement on Wednesday evening, Redford said she wouldn't allow party infighting to get in the way of building a better future for Alberta. Dave Hancock is interim premier.	0:10
Story 2	Solving the mystery of the missing Malaysian plane is proving to be very difficult. It was on March 8th that Flight 370 took a sudden and still unexplained left turn over the waters between Malaysia and Vietnam. Since then, there has been a sense of confusion and frustration among not just the family members of the 239 passengers and crew, but also within the worldwide aviation community. Basic questions are still unanswered. Was the plane hijacked? What happened to the passengers? And, of course, where is the plane?	0:50
Story 3	Alumni from a Calgary high school are getting together to save the name and logo of its sports teams. The graduates of Western Canada High School say they don't want the "Redmen" name changed to something less controversial. Earlier this month the Calgary Board of Education decided the name must be changed after meeting with a council of aboriginal elders from the Treaty 7 area. A spokesperson for the school board says the term "Redmen" is an offensive reference to North American aboriginal people.	1:37

## Appendix: Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. My friend has been struggling to learn English, so I suggested he use CBC Learning English.
2. When my ESL teacher wants to shake up her diet (eating habits), she asks her foreign students for their favorite recipes.
3. There has been a lot of unrest in the Ukraine. The most recent event was that Russia took over Crimea.
4. After the president resigned, the vice president became the interim leader, until an election was held.
5. Infighting within a political party decreases that party's popularity.
6. When I first started my job, I was called a junior associate.
7. It is shocking how many people do not recycle cans, plastic and other things.

#### Listening

1. F Alison Redford recently stepped up as Alberta's premier.
2. T Redford had been having a difficult time dealing with problems in her party.
3. T The Progressive Conservative party had problems, because of Redford's leadership style and travel expenses.
4. T Two government members recently quit.
5. F A junior cabinet minister called Redford a bully.
6. F Redford shocked people when she said she would allow party infighting.
7. T Dave Hancock is the temporary premier.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
C	1) mystery	a) defeat annoyance
D	2) prove	b) quickly surprising
F	3) confusion	c) problem question
A	4) frustration	d) show evidence end up
G	5) aviation	e) stolen seized
E	6) hijacked	f) disorder chaos
B	7) sudden	g) airplane industry flying machines

## Listening

1. Solving the mystery of the missing Malaysian plane is _____.	a) difficult without proof. b) proving to be very difficult.
2. On March 8 <sup>th</sup> , Flight 370 took a _____ turn over waters between Malaysia and Vietnam.	a) sharp and confusing b) sudden and unexplained
3. Family members of the passengers and crew have felt _____ since March 8 <sup>th</sup> .	a) frustration and confusion b) senseless
4. _____ community also feels frustration and confusion.	a) The world Malaysian b) The worldwide aviation
5. There are many questions _____.	a) that are still unanswered. b) that are still basic.

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. Alumni	a) A person who has successfully completed a program of study at a school, college or university
e	2. logo	b) likely to cause public disagreement
a	3. graduate	c) a graduate or former student of a school, college or university
b	4. controversial	d) spiritual leaders of aboriginal communities
d	5. elders	e) a symbol or design used by an organization like a school or business
g	6. offensive	f) people who lived in Canada before European settlers
f	7. aboriginal	g) causing someone to feel upset or hurt

## Listening

1. Which high school is named in this story? Western Canada High School
2. What is the current name of the sports team? The Redmen
3. Which group of people is offended by the name? Aboriginal people/ Treaty 7 aboriginal people
4. Who has decided that the name must be changed? The Calgary Public School Board
5. What will the new name for the sports teams be? It will be something less controversial.